

OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN EARL BLUMENAUER
APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST FORM
FISCAL YEAR 2011

Instructions

1. Please complete the entire form. **All fields are required.**
2. Please do not **bold**, underline, or *italicize* responses.
3. Request forms must be submitted as a Word document.
4. All completed request forms and any supplemental materials must be submitted via email to:
Appropriations.Blumenauer@mail.house.gov
5. Please do not send more than one request per email.
6. All completed request forms must be submitted no later than **Friday, February 26, 2010.**
7. If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your request within 48 hours of submission, please contact Stephanie Cappa in Congressman Blumenauer's Washington, D.C. office at 202-225-4811.

PLEASE NOTE: All appropriations requests submitted to Congressman Blumenauer's office will be made public on his website, as required by the House Committee on Appropriations.

Project Details

1. Project title:

Willamette River Floodplain Restoration Study

2. Organization name and address (the recipient of the funds):

Recipient:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Portland District
P.O. Box 2946
Portland, OR 97208-2946

Requester:

The Nature Conservancy
821 SE 14th Avenue
Portland, OR 97214

3. Contact information

- a. **Project's primary contact:** Michael Dennis, The Nature Conservancy
- b. **Daytime telephone number/ mobile phone number:** 503/802-8100
- c. **Email Address:** michael_dennis@tnc.org
- d. **Project location** (if different than organization's address):
Willamette Valley

4. Please describe the requesting organization's main activities.

The Nature Conservancy is an international, nonprofit organization dedicated to the conservation of biological diversity. Our mission is to preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. Our on-the-ground conservation work is carried out in all 50 states and in more than 30 foreign countries and is supported by approximately one million individual members. The Nature Conservancy has protected more than 117 million acres of land and 5,000 miles of river around the world. Our work also includes more than 100 marine conservation projects in 21 countries and 22 U.S. states.

5. Is this organization a public, private non-profit, or private for-profit entity?

Private, non-profit 501(c)3 organization

6. From what federal agency and account are you requesting funds (Please be specific –e.g., Department of Housing and Urban Development, Economic Development Initiatives account)?

Investigations Account, Army Corps of Engineers

7. Briefly describe the activity or project for which funding is requested (no more than 500 words).

The project will assess the potential for floodplain restoration in the Middle Fork and Coast Fork rivers of the Willamette. The study focuses on identifying and evaluating opportunities to modify existing floodplain features to reduce flood damage while restoring natural wetlands and promoting ecosystem restoration. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and its non-governmental partners will identify a subset of reaches along the two major tributaries that have the potential for reconnecting the river and floodplain, and will develop preliminary engineering designs and cost/benefit assessments for a variety of restoration projects. The information will be compiled into a feasibility report that will inform and direct implementation of the restoration projects.

The Willamette River is also one of eight pilots under the Sustainable Rivers Project (SRP), a unique national partnership between the Corps and The Nature Conservancy to protect the ecological health of rivers and surrounding natural areas by improving dam management while continuing to provide services such as flood control and power generation. On the Willamette, the Corps and the Conservancy are working to identify environmental flow requirements for the river and its tributaries and tie those requirements to stream channel and floodplain restoration and operation improvements at Corps facilities on the Willamette River system.

8. What is the purpose of the project? Why is it a valuable use of taxpayer funds? How will the project support efforts to improve the economy and create jobs in Oregon?

This project will contribute to the long-term restoration of floodplain habitat in the Willamette River Basin, an important step toward the recovery of several federally threatened fish species. The project's restoration efforts, including increasing floodplain connectivity and replanting riparian forests, will enhance the Corps' ability to reduce river temperatures and meet their obligations under the Clean Water Act.

Due to its cultural, ecological, and economic importance combined with major community revitalization efforts, the Willamette River has been designed as one of ten American Heritage Rivers. The Willamette River Basin has also been identified as one of five priority watersheds in the nation by the Corps. The Willamette Valley's location on the Pacific Flyway makes it an important area for migrating and wintering waterfowl, and over a dozen species of birds would benefit from protection of floodplain habitat.

For this phase, this project will support staff and contracts with private firms. Later, it is anticipated that multiple on-the-ground restoration projects will be identified and described through this study, and that implementation of these restoration projects will generate numerous engineering and construction jobs over the next five years.

9. Has this project received federal appropriations funding in past fiscal years?

Yes

9a. If yes, please provide the fiscal year, Department, Account, and funding amount of any previous funding.

FY 2005	Army Corps of Engineers	\$326,000
FY 2006	Army Corps of Engineers	\$400,000
FY 2007	Army Corps of Engineers	\$400,000
FY 2008	Army Corps of Engineers	\$83,000
FY 2009	Army Corps of Engineers	\$60,000
FY 2010	Army Corps of Engineers	\$137,000

All funds were in the Army Corps of Engineers' 'General Investigations' Account.

Funding Details

10. Amount requested for this project:

\$153,000

11. Breakdown/budget of the amount you are requesting for this project (e.g., salary \$40,000; computer \$3,000):

The majority of the funds will be spent on staff time and on contracts for key tasks, including: initiating the Design Documentation Report in the PED Phase; providing oversight and review of NEPA documents, a Real Estate Plan, Alternatives Analysis, and Project Partnering Agreement to complete the feasibility phase.

12. What is the total cost of the project?

\$3,389,000

13. Is this project scalable (i.e., If partial funding is awarded, will the organization still be able to use the funds in FY 2011?)?

The work would continue with partial funding, but the planning phase would take more time.

14. What other funding sources (local, regional, state) are contributing to this project or activity? (Please be specific about funding sources and funding amounts)

The non-federal cost share for this project is 50 percent. The non-federal sponsor for the feasibility study is Willamette Partnership, a nonprofit organization working through its financing entity, the Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments. In addition, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Conservancy, local watershed councils and other public and private partners are providing financial and technical support.

15. Please list public or private organizations that have supported/endorsed this project.

The project enjoys strong implementation support from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Willamette Partnership, Bonneville Power Administration, the Lane County United Front (Cities of Eugene and Springfield, Lane County), the Middle and Coast Forks Watershed Councils, and Willamette Riverkeeper.

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Appropriations.Blumenauer@mail.house.gov

Washington, D.C. Appropriations Contact for Rep. Earl Blumenauer: Stephanie Cappa, 202-225-4811, Stephanie.Cappa@mail.house.gov

Oregon Appropriations Contact for Rep. Earl Blumenauer: Sarah Masterson, 503-231-2300, Sarah.Masterson@mail.house.gov